

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-17 remain in this application. By this Amendment, claims 9 and 11 have been amended, and claims 18-25 have been cancelled without prejudice. In view of the amendments above and the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Isabella for his time and consideration extended to Applicants' representative, Christopher G. Trainor, Esq., during the interview conducted on September 24, 1998. During the interview, it was agreed that claim 9, as amended above, is allowable over the prior art of record. Claim 11 has been amended to depend from claim 9. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 9 and claims 11-17, which depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 10 are allowed. It is believed that the application as now presented, containing claims 1, 3-6, and 8-17, is patentably distinct over the art of record and is in condition for allowance. In the event that the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or

a personal interview with Applicant's attorney may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned. In view of the foregoing, early and favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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